

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, line 26, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The use of PCBs, another highly toxic substance, has been banned but most of them are stockpiled in the absence of an effective and safe way of disposal. The production of volatile organic fluorides have suspended since they cause ozone depletion but even today they are used in large quantities. In spite of these difficulties, halogenated organic compounds have useful characteristics; for example, chlorofluorocarbon are used as coolants, fire retardants and detergents whereas ~~chloriated~~ chlorinated compounds such as trichloethylene, methylene chloride and tetrachloroethylene are used as detergents; most pharmaceuticals, agrichemicals pieces that can be easily discharged into the receptacle pot. For commercial application of the present invention, a continuous reaction must be performed consistently and the agitating/moving device mounted in the reaction column not only prevents the growth of the solidified mass but also allows for easy discharge of calcium chloride, thereby enabling consistent and continuous treatment of organic halides. The present inventors found this fact when they were making experiments in connection with Japanese Patent Application No. 46800/1999 and the reaction column equipped with the agitating/moving device allowed for effective and continuous treatment of the feedstock.

On page 6, please replace paragraphs 20 and 23 with the following amended paragraphs:

~~Fig. 1~~ The figure is the general view of a specific apparatus for implementing the method of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention is described below in detail with reference to ~~Fig. 1~~the figure which is the general view of a specific apparatus for implementing the method of the invention.

On page 7, please replace the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The reaction column 1 has at the bottom an opening through which the reaction product (calcium chloride, barium chloride or a mixture thereof) is discharged and an inverted cone equipped with a device for discharging these reaction products in isolation from the outside (in ~~Fig. 1~~the figure, the device discharges particles by means of a rotary valve which is motor-driven to rotate) and supply sections for the mixture of the feedstock and air (two such supply sections are used in ~~Fig. 1~~the figure). The reaction tower has at the top a device for supplying the particles of calcium oxide, barium oxide or a mixture thereof (which may be of the same design as the particle discharging device provided at the bottom) and a device for discharging the effluent gas from the reaction column 1 into the atmosphere via a bag filter 12 by means of a blower. The particles of the oxide form a bed which moves down through the reaction column 1 as it makes countercurrent contact with the ascending feedstock and undergoes continuous reaction. Thus, the reaction column 1 functions as a moving-bed reactor. The reaction column 1 is equipped with a suitable heating device for controlling temperature, such as a vapor heater or a heater of the type used in electric furnaces.